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**DEFENDANT SENTENCED TO LIFE IN PRISON
FOR PARTICIPATING IN FATAL ARSON**

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that Tu Minh Truong, 27, formerly of Sacramento, was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of release for his role in the January 7, 1997, firebombing of the residence located at 6100 Merry Lane, Carmichael.

This case was investigated by the United States Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, and the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office.

The home which Truong helped firebomb was occupied by two brothers, a sister, and the sister's three children. Nine-year-old Hien Tran died as a result of the fire caused by the firebombing, and her uncle, Duc Tran, suffered third degree burns over more than 30 percent of his body. Hien Tran's other uncle, Tri Tran, was also injured when he attempted to rescue the little girl from her burning bedroom.

According to Assistant United States Attorneys Kenneth J. Melikian and R. Steven Lapham, who prosecuted the case, in June, 1999, Tanh Huu Lam pled guilty to arranging this firebombing of the Carmichael residence. In September, 1999, United States District Court Judge William B. Shubb sentenced Lam to a term of life imprisonment without the possibility of release. In April, 2002, Trung Thanh Pham pled guilty to leading the effort to firebomb the residence. In February, 2003, he was also sentenced to a term of life imprisonment without the possibility of release. In January, 2004, Quoc Phu Pham (no relation to Trung Thanh Pham) pled guilty to participating in the effort to firebomb the residence. Last month, he received a reduced sentence of 17 years in prison because he cooperated with the authorities in the investigation of this case.

According to court documents, at some time prior to December, 1996, Lam hired Trung Pham to kill Tri Tran. Lam paid Trung Pham approximately \$2,000 in cash to kill Tran with the understanding that after Tran was dead Lam would pay Trung Pham an additional \$5,000.

In his effort to kill Tran for Lam, and with the Lam's approval, Trung Pham and Quoc

Pham made two separate and unsuccessful attempts to shoot Tran as Tran was driving home from work. Tu Truong joined these two men in the second attempt.

After these shootings failed to kill Tran, the same three men, with Lam's approval, set Tran's house on fire at approximately 2:40 a.m. on January 7, 1997. Trung Pham doused the front porch with gasoline while his accomplices threw firebombs through a front window.

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